3t Mukherjea O. Y-4, 5 (ca. 1933-1939) 1962
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SANTAL PARGANAS

common platform. They long for the development of their distinctive culture—a pre-Dravidian Jharkhand.

Now with Independence, and its concomitant adult franchise, things are undergoing a rapid transformation. The Santal, along with the other aboriginals, like his more civilised brethren has got to handle a ballot paper. They see that the more advanced Indians are trying to have a better standard of life and are rushing in for more and more of education, for amenities of life hitherto denied to the hill and jungle-folk. Development plans of the government, Community projects, programmes of tribal uplift are gradually throwing open to them roads, motor lorries, schools and fineries. Planes buzz over them, radios blare and torch lights flash. With all the glare of modernism in their eyes, is it a wonder that these aboriginals, so long living idyllic lives in the backwoods of songs and dances are puzzled at the threshold of a New World?

So long the seeds of a new order were in the air. Old sets of value now seemed disturbed. In Bolpur area, one could notice new house-types with windows and furniture, they lacked in the past. Santals were found chewing betels, drinking less and taking to milk and tea and cigarettes. Many have given up beef like the Hindus, even buffalo meat and pork have gone off their menu. The old Santal